

III. REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 9, 10-15, 17, 18, 20 and 22-29 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Tsukamoto.

The Examiner is thanked for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview on February 17, 2006. During this interview, it was agreed that if a certified translation of the Finnish priority application were provided, Tsukamoto would be eliminated as a reference. Since such a translation is hereby enclosed, the rejection of the above claims should be withdrawn.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 19 and 21 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tsukamoto in view of Armanto.

Since Tsukamoto has been eliminated as a reference, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn. It is noted that the Finnish application does not disclose the MIDI feature of claims 4 and 19. However, this is irrelevant since the Examiner is citing Armanto for this feature.

Claims 5 and 16 are not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Tsukamoto in view of Hirai.

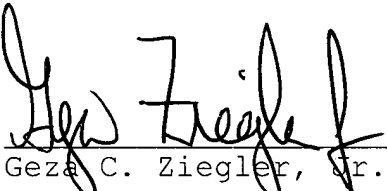
Similarly, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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3 May 2006
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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